

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON CHEESE;
SWISS IMPORT QUOTA FOR U.S. BEEF

REF: BERN 1016

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR JACOBI THAT U.S. VIEWS AS VERY UNFORTUNATE SWISS DECISION NOT TO EXTEND U.S. BEEF QUOTA UNTIL COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASE SETTLED. LINKAGE OF COUNTERVAILING CASE WITH OTHER ISSUES (BEEF, TOBACCO) IS NOT HELPFUL TO SWISS INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY DURING FIRST STAGE OF TREASURY INQUIRY.

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2. FYI: DURING WASHINGTON VISIT JACOBI RAISED POSSIBILITY

OF SWISS ACTION ON BEEF QUOTA BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT ACTION WOULD NOT BE TAKEN PRIOR TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASE. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WITHIN CONTEXT OF MANDATORY NATURE OF U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LEGISLATION, EVERY CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO REPRESENTATION OF SWISS GOVERNMENT AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES. USG HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO CHANGE MARKET ACCESS BUT IS MERELY IN PROCESS OF CONDUCTING INQUIRY AS REQUIRED UNDER U.S. LAW.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, ACTION TAKEN BY JACOBI TO SUSPEND U.S. BEEF QUOTA IS UNWARRANTED AND UNFORTUNATE SINCE IT SUGGESTS DESIRE OF SWISS GOVERNMENT TO CONTEMPLATE ESCALATING TRADE DISPUTE.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO APPROACH JACOBI URGENTLY TO URGE THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON BEEF QUOTA AT THIS TIME TO AVOID HAVING THIS SITUATION BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE AND NEW FACTOR IN U.S./SWISS RELATIONS. INGERSOLL

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